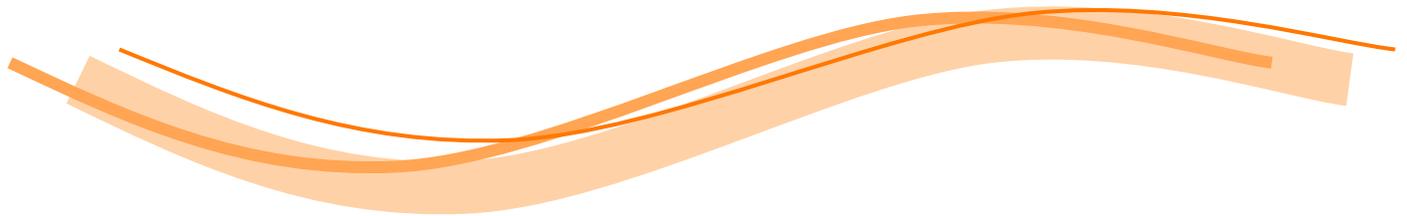




HUATULCO MEXICO & TRANSAT HOLIDAYS





HUATULCO MEXICO

For a truly authentic Mexican experience - visit Huatulco. It's a Pacific paradise renowned for its relaxing atmosphere, beautiful beaches and feel of being the "real" Mexico. And for sun seekers – there is virtually year-round sunshine!

Huatulco is still relatively unknown to many vacationers and it is an area of pristine natural beauty. Much of its appeal is that, despite the fact that many luxury resorts have been developed along its magnificent bays, little has changed. Recognizing the ecological importance of this entire region, it has been designated a national wildlife preserve, and all development has been planned and carried out sensitively. In fact, several of the bays remain wholly undeveloped today and can only be accessed by boat.

Drive to the mountains, hike by the river side and swim in natural fresh water swimming pools. Enjoy an unforgettable experience, as you explore the jungle on a 4x4 adventure. Visit Pluma Hidalgo a town in the clouds, famous for its Pluma coffee. Taste the local cuisine or see handicraft production at a traditional weaving workshop.

Beginners and experts can try diving and snorkelling at one of the over thirty beaches. And if you are a golf enthusiast, enjoy a round at the challenging 18-hole Tangelunda Golf Course.

Transat Holidays have weekly direct flights between December 20, 2013 and March 21, 2014 and offer a choice of four hotels, plus excursions to help you enjoy your visit to Huatulco to the full.

Take an all-inclusive trip to the 4 star Las Brisas Huatulco Resort, nestled beachfront on the western side of Tangelunda Bay and just 27 kms from Huatulco airport. The hotel has 484 rooms in many 3-storey buildings. Choose between Deluxe rooms and Brisa Beach Club rooms which have an ocean view and upgraded amenities, bathrobes and slippers in the room upon arrival and include access to an exclusive lounge with continental breakfast. The hotel has 5 à la carte restaurants (Middle Eastern, Mediterranean, Mexican, Grill & Seafood). Plus pools, bars, disco and a gym.

This hotel is part of **Transat Holiday's Experience Collection** and you can book to take the "**Coffee and Culture**" **Escapade**. Escapades are exciting two day, one night trips away from your resort. From the Las Brisas Huatulco Resort, head out to visit a local town and a traditional market. Tour a coffee plantation, where brewing and cultivation techniques have been unchanged since the 18th Century. Learn about

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	<p>coffee making and have a home cooked lunch. Then continue on to San Jose de Pacifico, a small town high in the mountains. Take part in a cooking workshop at a local restaurant and stay overnight at an authentic Mexican hotel. The following day promises a hike in the mountains, a bird watching tour and more local towns before you return to your resort</p>
Location	<p>Huatulco is located on the Southern Pacific coast of Mexico in the state of Oaxaca where the foothills of the Sierra Madre del Sur Mountains meet the Pacific Ocean approximately 500 km south of Acapulco, Guerrero.</p> <p>Huatulco has 35 kms of coastline conformed of the nine bays with 36 beaches with clear and brilliant waters, on a total of 21 hectares, of which 16,400 are earmarked for the regeneration and preservation of the ecological balance, being a vital part of this project the Huatulco Wildlife and Marine Park, declared a National Protected Area in 1998.</p>
Geography	<p>Huatulco is divided into four main districts. Tangolunda is the area where the large upscale resorts are located; Santa Cruz is a small town with the main marina and Santa Cruz beach; La Crucecita, is another small town just inland from the beach area which provides support services to the area, and Chahué is an area between Santa Cruz and Tangolunda.</p> <p>The Bahias de Huatulco, (Bays of Huatulco) are actually made up of a series of nine bays and numerous small coves stretching along 26 kilometers of jagged coastline, including 36 white sandy beaches.</p>
Name	<p>Its original name is Santa Cruz Huatulco. The name Huatulco refers to the region encompassing Bahías de Huatulco, or the Bays of Huatulco. Huatulco is derived from a Nahuatl (Indian) word that means "place where people worship the cross." Legend has it that a white, bearded man brought a cross to Santa Cruz many years before the Spanish conquest. (Some believe he was one of the apostles.) The story goes that he converted the Indians to Christianity and then disappeared.</p>
Population	<p>Huatulco itself has only 8,000 inhabitants but the State of Oaxaca in which it is situated has a population of approximately 3.5 million.</p>
Language	<p>Spanish – but English is widely spoken in the coastal resort towns.</p>
Currency	<p>The Mexican Pesos – although the US Dollar is also widely accepted too. Currently (6 Dec 2013) \$1 Cdn = 12.1 Mexican Pesos.</p>
Tipping	<p>The average tip for service is 10-15% and one or two dollars per suitcase carried. Always check your bill first as tips may already be included.</p>
Government	<p>The United Mexican States are a federation whose government is representative, democratic and republican based on a presidential system. The President is Enrique Peña Nieto.</p>
Documentation	<p>Passports are required for Canadian citizens, but no Visa is necessary</p>
Time zone	<p>Huatulco is on Central Time, one hour behind Montreal and Toronto.</p>

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Health	There are no special health problems here and the hospital facilities are excellent.
Safety tips	In contrast to the sometimes lurid media accounts of the drug war in Mexico, this region – in common with most of the tourist regions of the country – is safe for vacationers. Just take the normal precautions that you would in your own town or city.

CLIMATE	
General climate	Sunshine can be expected about 330 days a year with the average temperature of 28C. The dry season extends from December to May and the rainy season is from June to November. The amount of precipitation has a definite effect on the local vegetation, being brownish in the dry season and very green in the rainy season.
Today's weather	Today is 30 Centigrade and sunny in Huatulco (7 Dec 2013)
Best time to visit	The winter season between December and April is perfect for Canadians – almost no rains and warm temperatures from its southerly location in Mexico.

GETTING AROUND	
Getting There	Transat Holidays have weekly direct flights between December 20, 2013 and March 21, 2014 and offer a choice of four hotels, plus excursions to help you enjoy your visit to Huatulco to the full.
Cities	The Huatulco area has three small towns: La Crucecita, Santa Cruz and Tangolunda. Getting between them is easy – they are short taxi rides away from each other, or there is a local minibus service. Santa Cruz is the main commercial and tourist hub, with lots of restaurants, discos and craft shops.
Distances	This stretch of coast is 480 km southeast of Acapulco.
Boats	There are several catamaran trips across the Bays of Huatulco, including the daily Seven Bays Tour which leaves from the harbour at Santa Cruz
Trains	There are no longer any operating trains in Oaxaca.
Car Rental	Rental cars are readily available at the airport, through travel agencies, and through the most popular U.S. car rental services.
Buses	There are three bus stations in Crucecita, all within a few blocks, but none in Santa Cruz or Tangolunda. The Gacela and Estrella Blanca station, at the corner of Gardenia and Palma Real, handles service to Acapulco, Mexico City, Puerto Escondido, and Pochutla. The Cristóbal Colón station (tel. 958/587-0261) is at Av. Riscalillo, Sector T. It serves destinations throughout Mexico, including Oaxaca, Puerto Escondido, and Pochutla. The Estrella del Valle station, on Jasmin between Sabali and Carrizal, serves Oaxaca.

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ACCOMMODATION TYPES	You will find a wide variety of accommodations from rooms for rent, small economy hotels, luxury oceanfront villas, vacation condominiums, bed and breakfasts, along with several luxury resorts standing on or near the shores of Tangolunda Bay. For the best of the all inclusive resorts, pick up the Transat Holidays brochure from your local travel agent.
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LIFESTYLES	
Kids	The younger kids will love the beaches of Huatulco and all the big resorts have great pools; most have kids' clubs too. They will also enjoy some of the eco-excursions to the jungle and the waterfalls.
Teens	Teens will love the relatively new 20,000-hectare "eco-archaeological" park, El Botazoo, at Punta Celeste, where there is a recently discovered archeological site. Hiking, rappelling, and bird-watching are popular activities there. This new development is all being handled with ecological sensitivity in mind.
Romance	Pamper yourself in the glow of a romantic Mexican sunset on a luxury yacht. There is nothing more peaceful and romantic than sailing across one of the Bays of Huatulco as the crimson sun dips into the deep blue waters of the Pacific.
Honeymoons & Weddings	Many of the larger resorts in Huatulco will organize destination weddings – including the featured resort Las Brisas Huatulco
Seniors	Huatulco is safe, sunny and relaxing – which is why Seniors love the place so much.

UNIQUES	<p>Huatulco has achieved the prestigious Green Globe Benchmarked Certificate under the new Green Globe Certification program, which recognises the operation's commitment to operating at the world's highest environmental standard.</p> <p>Huatulco has spent considerable time benchmarking its energy and water consumption, waste production and disposal as well as implementing an integrated environmental and social policy. In particular it has achieved Best Practice results in Potable Water Consumption, Solid Waste Production, Resource Conservation (Paper consumed), Resource Conservation (Biodegradable pesticides) and Biodiversity. These measures will deliver ongoing reduction of non-renewable resources, extensive cost savings and secure a sustainable commercial and ecological future for the Destination.</p> <p>About Green Globe Green Globe is the global Benchmarking, Certification and improvement system assisting the international travel and tourism industry to attain sustainability. Green Globe provides a certification system that responds directly to the major environmental problems facing the</p>
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	planet, including the greenhouse effect, over-use of freshwater resources, destruction of biodiversity, production of solid and biological waste and social issues.
Surprising	One of Huatulco's famous landmarks is El Bufadero in Santa Cruz Bay. It's a rock formation that forms a blowhole. In Organo Bay there is another rock formation that resembles an old man's face.
History	<p>Legends say the Toltecs and Quetzalcoátl came from this area. Quetzacoátl, according to a later legend, set an enormous and indestructible cross, which has never been found. Various people have passed through this area, including the Chatmos, the Zapotecs and the Mexicas.</p> <p>After the Spanish Conquest, Huatulco thrived as a port under Hernán Cortés' control serving as a vantage point for Spanish galleons and a distribution centre for supplies on the Pacific coast. The latter half of the 16th Century saw Huatulco attacked by Francis Drake and Thomas Cavendish - both of whom left their prints on the region's history and legends that continue to this day.</p> <p>Until resort development began in the 1980s, Huatulco was little known except as a coffee-growing area. In 1984, FONATUR (Fondo Nacional de Turismo), a government agency dedicated to the development of tourism in Mexico, acquired 21,000 hectares of land to develop a tourism center, similar to that in Cancun. The plan resulted in the improvement of roadways and other infrastructure. It also has populated areas mixed with "green zones" to make the area more ecologically friendly.</p>
Books	Frommer's Mexico is the bible for travellers to Mexico.
1000 Places to See Before You Die	<p>El Dia de los Muertos – Mexicans remember and celebrate their departed in this festival which normally takes place at the start of November.</p> <p>Oaxaca's Saturday Market – craft shopping in the most Mexican city of the Republic</p>
Must Sees	Oaxaca's Monte Alban – see below under historical buildings

SPORTS ACTIVITIES	
Golf	Campo de Golf Tangolunda is one of the best golf courses on the Pacific coast of Mexico – which is high praise indeed. This 18-hole, par-72 golf course (tel. 958/581-0037) is adjacent to Tangolunda Bay. It has tennis courts as well for \$11 per hour. The greens fee is \$80 for 18 holes and \$64 for 9 holes; carts cost \$34.
Fishing	<p>Huatulco is a deep sea fisherman's dream vacation destination. Sailfish, tuna, snapper, dorado and marlin are swimming in the coastal waters just waiting for the right bait. Charter a boat and enjoy a group fishing expedition.</p> <p>Fishing charters cost \$120 per person, for one to eight people; or select</p>

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	from other options where the price varies with the size of the boat; a boat can be rented for 8 hours for \$450.
Horse riding	Guided horseback riding through the jungles and to Conejos and Magueyito beach makes for a wonderful way to see the natural beauty of the area. The ride lasts 3 hours, with departures at 9:45am and 1:45pm, and costs \$35 to \$45. Contact Caballo del Mar Ranch (tel. 958/589-9387).
Hiking	A recommended guide for both hiking and bird-watching is Laura Gonzalez, of Nature Tours Huatulco (tel. 958/583-4047 or 589-0636). Choices include a hike around Punta Celeste with views of the river, open sea, and forest, for sightings of terrestrial and aquatic birds. The 3 1/2-hour tour can be made in the early morning or late afternoon, and costs \$45. An 8-hour excursion to the Ventanilla Lagoons takes you by boat through a mangrove to view birds, iguanas, and crocodiles. The cost is \$80, including lunch. Tours include transportation, binoculars, specialized bird guide, and beverages.
Cycling	Local tour operators offer mountain biking day trips in the hills behind Huatulco for those looking for an active pursuit.
Canopy Tours	A popular Huatulco adventure activity is canopy tours. You glide from treetop to treetop, getting an up-close-and-personal look at a tropical rainforest canopy and the trails far below. Expert guides assist you to the special platforms, and you move from one to another using pulleys on horizontal traverse cables, while the guides explain the tropical flora surrounding you. They also offer assistance - and moral support - as you rappel back down to the forest floor.
Diving	Huatulco has 13 sites available to dive, which are located around marine fauna and coral reefs. Try Hurricane Divers if you are interested in diving and snorkeling. This professional dive centre offers tours, courses and great packages for its clients. All levels of the courses are offered in English.

CULTURE	
Arts	The Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Oaxaca in Oaxaca exhibits the work of contemporary artists, primarily from Oaxaca state (which has produced some of Mexico's most famous painters). It also books traveling exhibitions. The 18th-century building merits a visit for its own sake. It's called the Casa de Cortés, and many locals say that it was built by order of Hernán Cortez after he received the title of Marqués of the Valley of Oaxaca.
Music	Ranchera, Mariachi and Sones are the traditional forms of music that can be heard throughout this region.
Museums	There are some excellent historical museums in Oaxaca which is a 30 minute flight away from Huatulco. The best is the Museo Regional de Oaxaca . The most treasured possessions are the artifacts from Monte

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	Albán's Tomb 7, which were discovered in 1932. The tomb contained 12 to 14 corpses and some 500 pieces of jewelry and art, making use of almost 3.6kg of gold and turquoise, conch shell, amber, and obsidian
Festivals	<p>Radish Night Festival in December in Oaxaca Radishes are lovingly sculpted into everything from animals to saints and nativity scenes at Oaxaca's curious annual Radish Festival. The Zócalo fills with stalls, music and traditional dancing.</p> <p>Day of the Dead in November (annual) Mexico's famous commemoration of the dead - el día de los muertos - is both a joyous and touching celebration. In Oaxaca, the people remember their ancestors by decorating the cemeteries.</p>

ATTRACTIONS	<p>Here are some of the excursions offered by Transat Holidays in Huatulco:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waterfalls Tour A.T.V. Jungle Tour 7 Bays & Snorkelling tour Sweet & Salty Sunset cruise Customs & Traditions Ecological Crocs & Turtles Tour Coffee adventure Copalita Eco-Archaeological site
Beaches	<p>The beaches are the star attraction of Huatulco as a destination.</p> <p>The most centrally located bay is Bahía de Santa Cruz, which is just south of the town of La Crucecita. It is also the centre of commercial and tourist activities, with a large pier where cruise ships dock. Many resort offerings can be found here such as hotels, craft shops, discothèques, bars, restaurants, excursion agencies, sailboat excursions as well as scuba diving, snorkeling and jet skis for rent. The Capilla de Santa Cruz is where many weddings and baptisms are celebrated next to the sea. Playa Santa Cruz, is the best known of the beaches here. It is 250 meters long, with soft white sand and turquoise blue water.</p> <p>Heading east from Santa Cruz are the bays of Bahía Chahué, Bahía Tangolunda and Bahía Conejos. These are the more developed areas of Huatulco. Bahía Chahué is 2 km east of Santa Cruz and its name means "fertile or moist land" in Zapotec. It has a marina for large and small yachts along with three principal beaches; Chahué, Esperanza and Tejón. Even though these are wide beaches, their moderate surf makes them less-visited than those in Santa Cruz.</p>

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	<p>Three km east of Chahué is Bahía Tangolunda, which has five beaches; Ventura, Manzanillo, Tornillo, Tangolunda and Rincón Sabroso. Here the water varies between cobalt blue and emerald green. Most of the larger hotels are located on this bay. Residencial Conejos is 4 km east of Tangolunda and has some of the larger residential homes in the area, some of which are vacation rentals. The mouth of the Río (River) Copalita is slightly east of Bahía Conejos and it has a long zone of beaches.</p> <p>To the east of Río Copalita are beaches stretching all the way to the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. Two of these beaches are Barra de la Cruz and Playa Mojon. Some great surf waves can be found from these beaches. Barra de la Cruz is one of the best and easiest to access. Playa El Mojon can, at certain times of the year, have some decent waves for surfing and is also a great location to explore.</p> <p>Bahía Órgano is named for the cacti that grow there. It is 240 meters long and only accessible by boat. Bahía Maguey is about 1/2 km long and is accessible by car. Both these bays have fine, white sand and waters of various colors of blue and green. Bahía Cacaluta and Bahía Chachacual are only accessible by boat, and there are absolutely no human constructions of any kind. Bahía San Agustín is the furthest west and the largest of all the bays. It has 1 km of beaches between 20 and 80 meters wide. There are also small islets inside the bay itself.</p>
Wildlife	<p>The Sierra Madre Occidental supports some of the richest biodiversity found anywhere in North America, boasting a wide range of wildlife species including white-tailed deer, jaguar, pumas, wild boars, ocelots, jaguarundi, coati mundi, skunks, badgers, coyotes, margays, rabbits, armadillos and iguanas.</p>
Parks	<p>To the west of Santa Cruz, the beaches are less developed and most of this area belongs to the Parque Nacional Huatulco. This is a protected area created in 1998. It contains 6,375 hectares of lowland jungle and 5,516 hectares of marine areas, encompassing the bays of Bahía Maguey, Bahía Órgano, Bahía Cacaluta, Bahía Chachacual and Bahía San Agustín. In these bays live the most important coral communities of the Mexican Pacific. 723 species of animals live in the park as well as a number of species of colorful fish, and it is open to scuba diving, bird-watching and hiking.</p>
Waterfalls	<p>Ecotours are growing in popularity and number throughout the Bays of Huatulco. The mountain areas surrounding the Copalita River are also home to other natural treasures worth exploring, including the Copalitilla Cascades. Thirty kilometers north of Tangolunda at 395m (1,296 ft.) above sea level, this group of waterfalls - averaging 20 to 25m in height - form natural whirlpools and clear pools for swimming. The area is also</p>

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	popular for horseback riding and rappelling.
Historical Sites	<p>Monte Alban – A unique historical treasure near Oaxaca</p> <p>Monte Albán sits on a mountain that rises from the middle of the valley floor - or, rather, divides two valleys. From here you can see all that lies between you and the distant mountains. Starting around 2000 B.C., village-dwelling peoples of unknown origin inhabited the Oaxaca valleys. Between 800 and 500 B.C., a new ceramic style appeared, indicating an influx of new peoples, now called Zapotec. Around 500 B.C., these peoples began the monumental exercise of leveling the top of a mountain, where they would build Monte Albán.</p> <p>Very little of the original structures remain; they've either been obscured beneath newer construction or had their stones reused for other buildings. The Danzantes friezes date from this period.</p> <p>A centre of Zapotec culture, Monte Albán was also influenced by contemporary cultures outside the valley of Mexico. You can see Olmec influence in the early sculptures; more recent masks and sculptures reflect contact with the Maya. When Monte Albán was at its zenith in A.D. 300, it borrowed architectural ideas from Teotihuacán. By around A.D. 800, the significance of Monte Albán in Zapotec society began to wane. Although most likely never completely abandoned, it became a shadow of its former grandeur. At the beginning of the 13th century, the Mixtec appropriated Monte Albán. The Mixtec, who had long coexisted in the area with the Zapotec, began expanding their territory. At Monte Albán, they added little to the existing architecture; however, they seem to have considered it an appropriate burial ground for their royalty. They left many tombs, including Tomb 7, with its famous treasure.</p> <p>Monte Albán centres on the Great Plaza, a man-made area created by flattening the mountaintop. From this plaza, aligned north to south, you can survey the Oaxacan valley. The excavations at Monte Albán have revealed more than 170 tombs, numerous ceremonial altars, stelae, pyramids, and palaces.</p> <p>Begin your tour of the ruins on the eastern side of the Great Plaza at the I-shaped ball court. This ball court differs slightly from Maya and Toltec ball courts in that there are no goal rings, and the sides of the court slope. Also on the east side of the plaza are several altars and pyramids that were once covered with stucco. Note the sloping walls, wide stairs, and ramps; all are typical of Zapotec architecture and reminiscent of the architecture of Teotihuacán. The building, slightly out of line with the plaza (not on the north-south axis), is thought by some to have been an observatory; it was probably aligned with the heavenly bodies rather than with the points of the compass.</p> <p>The south side of the plaza has a large platform that bore several</p>

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	<p>stelae, most of which are now in the National Museum of Anthropology in Mexico City. There's a good view of the surrounding area from the top of this platform.</p> <p>The west side has more ceremonial platforms and pyramids. Atop the pyramid substructure are four columns that likely supported the roof of the temple at one time.</p> <p>The famous building of Los Danzantes (the dancers) on the west side of the plaza is the earliest known structure at Monte Albán. This building is covered with large stone slabs that have distorted naked figures carved into them (the ones you see are copies; the originals are protected in the site museum). There is speculation about who carved these figures and what they represent, although there is a distinct resemblance to the Olmec baby faces at La Venta, in Tabasco State. The distorted bodies and pained expressions might connote disease. Clear examples of figures representing childbirth, dwarfism, and infantilism are visible. Because of the fluid movement represented in the figures, they became known as Los Danzantes - merely a modern label for these ancient and mysterious carvings.</p> <p>The Northern Platform is a maze of temples and palaces interwoven with subterranean tunnels and sanctuaries. Take time to wander here, for there are numerous reliefs, glyphs, paintings, and friezes along the lintels and jambs as well as the walls. In this section of the ruins, you are likely to see vendors discreetly selling "original" artifacts found at the site.</p> <p>Leaving the Great Plaza, head north to the cemetery and tombs. Of the excavated tombs, the most famous is Tomb 7, next to the parking lot. It yielded some 500 pieces of gold, amber, and turquoise jewelry, as well as silver, alabaster, and bone art objects. This amazing collection is on display at the Museo Regional de Oaxaca.</p> <p>As you enter the site, you'll see a museum, a shop with guidebooks to the ruins, a cafe, and a craft shop. Video camera permits cost \$5. The site is open daily from 8am to 6pm. Admission to the ruins is \$4. Licensed guides charge \$15 per person for a walking tour and are well worth the money.</p>
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OTHER ACTIVITIES	
Shopping	Silver, crafts, artwork, tequila, coffee and resort wear are all good souvenirs. Black clay pottery and figurines are a regional speciality and the local ceramics are colourful.
Markets	Each resort boasts some shopping, plus there are colourful markets in La Crececita and Santa Cruz. In Oaxaca, check out the Benito Juarez market , at the corner of the zocalo, for handicrafts and food items. The Artisans' Market , near the chocolate factories of Mina Street, has better deals than most shops on

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	hammered tin, woodcarvings, weavings, rugs, blouses and wooden toys. The Abastos Market is the main city market, located on the edge of town. Gird yourself for navigating a splendid labyrinth of Oaxacan cheese, clothing, housewares, sugar skulls, homeopathic medicine counters, sweet breads, wooden furniture, baskets, masks and other treasures. Remember to bargain, but bargain gently.
Nightlife	Nightlife is centred on the all inclusive resorts of Huatulco. The Las Brisas Huatulco resort for instance has evening entertainment and music.
Casinos	There are no casinos in Huatulco.

CUISINE	
Food	<p>Seafood is plentiful in the area, with red snapper, prawns and lobster in abundance.</p> <p>For the same reasons its people are so diverse, Oaxaca boasts a tremendous diversity of regional cuisine, nicknamed "Land of the Seven Moles". An abundance of fruits and vegetables are grown in the central valley, tropical fruits are found in the north and fish and shellfish dominate the cuisine of the south. Oaxaca is also known for Oaxaca cheese (quesillo) which is now exported around the world and even made in many locations in the United States.</p> <p>Corn tortillas are the staple food but a vast array of foods are prepared from corn dough, from entomatadas and empanadas to tamales and tlayudas. Black beans are also a common ingredient, as is the pasilla chile which gives many dishes their distinct hot, smoky taste and red color.</p> <p>A breakfast specialty, generally only available in Oaxaca, is huevos oaxaqueños - eggs poached in a chili-tomato soup. Another specialty is chapulines, or roasted grasshoppers, a popular dish in the state's central valleys region. Chapulines are eaten after the rains begin and through early autumn.</p>
Coffee	There are a number of coffee plantations which are still in operation and give tours, including Finca (farm) Las Nieves, Finca Monte Carlos, Finca Margaritas, Finca El Pacífico and Finca La Gloria. Finca El Pacífico is known for the organic coffee it produces called "Pluma Hidalgo," and it is surrounded by waterfalls and ravines. Finca La Gloria is known for the butterfly sanctuary "Mariposario Dain Biguid", where dozens of species of butterflies can be seen and the "Llano Grande Falls".
Mescal	Mezcal, or mescal, is a distilled alcoholic beverage made from the maguey or agave plant that is native to Mexico. The word "mezcal" comes from Nahuatl "mexcalmetl," which means agave or maguey. This plant grows in many parts of Mexico but most mezcal is made in Oaxaca. There is a saying attributed to Oaxaca regarding the drink:

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	"para todo mal, mezcal y para todo bien también" (for everything bad, mezcal, and for everything good, too.)
Restaurants	<p>Try La Casa del Abuelo, the Topsy Blowfish and the Quinta Real for some of the best of local cuisine.</p> <p>Highly recommended: El Sabor de Oaxaca in Crucecita: This is the best place in the area to enjoy authentic, richly flavourful Oaxacan food, among the best of traditional Mexican cuisine. This colourful restaurant is a local favorite that also meets the quality standards of tourists. Among the most popular items are mixed grill for two, with a Oaxacan beef filet, tender pork tenderloin, chorizo (zesty Mexican sausage), and pork ribs; and the Oaxacan special for two, a generous sampling of the best of the menu, with tamales, Oaxacan cheese, chiles rellenos, pork mole, and more. If you're feeling adventurous, try the salty grilled chapulines (grasshoppers, a Oaxacan specialty). Generous breakfasts include eggs, bacon, ham, beans, toast, and fresh orange juice.</p> <p>Av. Guamuchil 206, Las Crucesitas, 70989 Bahias de Huatulco</p>

MORE INFO	
Brochures	Ask your travel agent for the Transat Holidays Sun Collection 2013-2014 and Nolitours Sun 2013-2014 brochure.
Website	www.TransatHolidays.com

HOTEL PRIZE PARTNER	Las Brisas Huatulco Bahia de Tangolunda Lote 1, Bahia de Huatulco 70989 Oaxaca Mexico Tel: 011 958 583 0200
Location	Just 27 km from the Huatulco airport and beachfront on the western side of Tangolunda Bay.
Facilities	24-hour room service Disco Gym 24-hour shuttle throughout the resort Massage WiFi
Accommodation	484 rooms in 3-storey buildings Air-conditioning 1 king-size or 2 double beds Hairdryer, TV, Coffee/tea-maker, Mini-bar, In-room safe Occupancy up to 4 persons (max. adults: 3 / max. children: 2)
Activities	Bird Watching tours Daily activities program Nightly entertainment Snorkeling Windsurfing

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	<p>Sailing Kayaking Tennis Golf nearby Pool Table Ping-pong</p>
Families	<p>Two children under 13 stay and eat free (except from December 24, 2013 to January 1, 2014 and April 13 to April 20, 2014) Kids' Club (ages 4 to 11) Wading pool Games room Babysitting</p>
Restaurants	<p>Buffet restaurant: Bellavista: Breakfast, lunch and dinner À la carte restaurants: Solarium: Dinner El Mexicano (Mexican) La Kasbah (Arabian) Mediterraneo (Mediterranean) La Périgola "El Pascador" (Seafood) (seasonal)</p>
AIRLINE PRIZE PARTNERS	Air Transat
Flight details	Transat have weekly direct flights between December 20, 2013 and March 21, 2014
CURRENT DEALS Dec 2013	<p>LAS BRISAS, HUATULCO ★★★★★ \$7997 Nights All Inclusive Fri, Jan 10, 17 +\$350 txs/fees</p> <p>BINNIGUENDA ALL INCLUSIVE ★★★1/2 \$699 7 Nights All Inclusive Fri, Jan 3 +\$350 txs/fees</p> <p>DREAMS HUATULCO RESORT & SPA ★★★★★1/2 \$1099 7 Nights All Inclusive Fri, Jan 10 +\$350 txs/fees</p> <p>SECRETS HUATULCO RESORT & SPA ★★★★★ ADULTS ONLY 18+ \$1479 7 Nights All Inclusive Fri, Dec 20 +\$350 txs/fees</p>
PERSONAL EXPERIENCES	I have stayed in Huatulco with my family for a week's vacation and can personally recommend this destination. I also visited Oaxaca and Monte Alban from this destination

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<p>TRANSAT AND HUATULCO</p>	<p>Transat Holidays have weekly direct flights between December 20, 2013 and March 21, 2014 and offer a choice of four hotels, plus excursions to help you enjoy your visit to Huatulco to the full:</p> <p>Binniguenda All Inclusive Dreams Huatulco Resort and Spa Las Brisas Huatulco Secrets Huatulco Resort and Spa</p> <p>Ask your travel agent for the Transat Holidays Sun Collection 2013-2014 and Nolitours Sun 2013-2014 brochure and go to www.transatholidays.com and www.Nolitours.com</p>
<p>Transat Collections</p>	<p>Everyone has slightly different priorities when choosing their holiday resort. If you are travelling with young kids, for instance, you will be looking for different facilities to a couple looking for a luxurious escape.....The experts at Transat Holidays have made it easy for you to find the perfect vacation that's right for you by creating the Transat "Collections".</p> <p>Each Collection is made up of resorts in different destinations across the Transat program – but all the resorts have features in common that make them a great choice for, for example, families or golfers. Here is an overview of what each Transat Collection* has to offer.</p> <p>Distinction Collection</p> <p>Resorts in the Transat Holidays "Distinction Collection" offer extra inclusions and privileges. So you know this is going to be a bit more of a special vacation. Resorts are chosen for this Collection that are on stunning beaches with beautiful surroundings and that offer attentive service, superb facilities and spacious accommodation. Distinction Collection resorts come with a long list of inclusions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Direct transfers between the airport and the hotel (no stopping at other hotels on the way) - Free WiFi in the lobby - Welcome cocktail and cold towel in the lobby upon arrival - Beach towels, bathrobes and slippers in room upon arrival - Bottle of wine or local specialty in room upon arrival - Unlimited select international brand drinks - Mini-bar, restocked daily - Concierge and turn-down service - A minimum of 3 guaranteed reservations for à la carte dinners - Golf or Spa discounts - Free safety deposit box <p>Here are just two examples of Distinction Collection Resorts:</p>

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Grand Bahia Principe La Romana Royal Garden, La Romana, Dominican Republic
Grand Bahia Principe Punta Cana Royal Golden, Punta Cana, Dominican Republic

Experience Collection

The “**Experience Collection**” brings unique ways to immerse yourself in the local culture. An Experience Collection “Duo” combines two different destinations in one vacation – for instance you could spend part of your vacation soaking up the sun on a beautiful beach, paired with exploring the cultural and historic attractions of a town or city.

Or book an Experience Collection “**Escapade**” for a two day adventure with one night away from your resort. Stay in authentic accommodation such as a traditional hotel, a hacienda or an ecolodge and explore the local towns, restaurants, wildlife and scenery.

Here are two examples of Experience Collection Resorts:
Bahia Principe San Juan Club Golden, Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic
Grand Bahia Principe Akumal Royal Garden, Riviera Maya, Mexico

Luxury Collection

For the ultimate pampering and indulgence - check out the “Luxury Collection”. Transat’s Luxury Collection represents a world of upscale 5 star resorts offering tranquility and privilege in intimate settings. Expect elegant accommodations, picture-perfect beaches, outstanding service, gourmet cuisine and world class spas. Luxury Collection resorts come with all these inclusions:

- Free access to VIP airport lounge (where available)
- Private transfers between the airport and the hotel
- Free WiFi
- Luxurious accommodation with whirlpool or hydromassage bathtub
- Welcome bottle of champagne and fruit platter in room upon arrival
- Beach towels, bathrobes and slippers in room upon arrival
- Coffee maker with quality local coffee
- VIP room amenities
- 24 hr room service
- Concierge or butler service
- Waiter service at pool and beach
- Unlimited à la carte gourmet dining with fine wines
- Unlimited premium brand drinks

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access to the spa facilities - Complimentary upgrade to Option Plus (Air Transat) and CanJet Select (CanJet) <p>Here are just two examples of Luxury Collection Resorts: Luxury Bahia Principe Cayo Levantado Don Pablo Collection, Samana, Dominican Republic Paradisus Princesa del Mar Royal Service, Varadero, Cuba</p> <p>Family Collection</p> <p>“Family Collection” resorts are perfect for kids. These resorts are carefully chosen by the experts at Transat Holidays because they have extensive family-friendly facilities, lots of activities for young and old – plus they are great value and offer kid’s discounts. With a Family Collection Resort you can expect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children stay and eat free (up to 2 children/family) - Most resorts are less than 1hr from the airport, so no long transfers - Spacious resorts with several pools, including one for kids - Double, triple and quad adjoining rooms - Priority check in at the hotel - Children’s’ entertainment - Kid’s Club and Mini Disco - Kid’s Menu - Free excursion for 1 child under 12 in every family per stay - Plus enjoy Family air services on your flight with dedicated check in, family pre boarding, priority baggage handling, free seat selection for kids, priority meal service, stroller service at Canadian airports and onboard kid’s surprises <p>Here are just two examples of Family Collection Resorts: Ocean Turquesa, Riviera Maya, Mexico Iberostar Playa Alameda, Varadero, Cuba</p> <p>Golf Collection</p> <p>If golf is a big part of your vacation experience – look no further than the Transat Golf Collection for golf friendly resorts offering accessible golf and everything from golf packages to discounts and green fees. Plus your golf clubs travel for free when you book a Transat Holidays package!</p> <p>Here are just two examples of Golf Collection resorts: Grand Bahia Principe Coba Royal Garden, Riviera Maya, Mexico Sandals Grande Riviera Beach and Villa Golf Resort, Jamaica</p>
Option Flex	For even more peace of mind – consider Option Flex from Transat Holidays and Nolitours. For only \$49 at the time of booking, should

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	<p>anything unexpected happen, Option Flex has you covered. You can change your departure date, destination or hotel up to 3 hours before departure. You can transfer your vacation package to a friend or family member up to 7 days before departure. Or you can cancel your trip and get a full refund.</p>
Transat Background	<p>For over 25 years, Transat Holidays has been offering a large selection of vacation options in Europe, Florida and the south, as well as cruises. In addition to more than 200 south hotels available in the form of all-inclusive packages, Transat also offers a wide range of flights, packages, tours and à la carte products in some 30 European destinations. Their packages are flexible and tailored to stays of varying lengths. Their employees aim to exceed vacationers' expectations in order to maintain their position as a market leader here in Canada. They see their role as turning holiday dreams into reality: making the vacation experience of their guests one of the most memorable ever. Transat offer flights from East to West and all in between, such as Hamilton, Thunder Bay, Ottawa and from the West Coast.</p>
Awards	<p>Agent's Choice Awards: For the fifth consecutive year, Transat Holidays was named Wholesaler of the Year by travel agents in 2012.</p>
Brochures	<p>Transat Holidays Sun 2013-2014 and Nolitours Sun 2013-2014 brochures are available at your local travel agent and cover vacations through to October 2014. Also newly released are: Transat Holidays Florida Transat Holidays Cruise Transat Discoveries</p>
Air Transat's New Comfort Zone	<p>With so many new comfort features, you're on vacation the minute you take your seat. Air Transat is giving their fleet a full makeover. Starting in 2012, one by one, the planes and passengers are soaring to new heights in design and comfort. They are rolling out the new cabins over the next two years. For a glimpse of what it all looks like: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZBse6WOCd70</p>
Air Transat Kids Club	<p>To ensure that your family vacations are fun and unforgettable from beginning to end, Air Transat has created Kids Club so that young passengers can really enjoy themselves whilst onboard an Air Transat flight. It is designed to make air travel a fun experience for young travellers (and for their parents!). Even before the doors of the plane are closed following boarding, every child receives a small bag containing all sorts of surprises and games. The more fun they have, the easier the flight. Furthermore, children who are members of Air Transat Kids Club enjoy certain exclusive privileges. Members of the Air Transat Kids Club will enjoy several benefits that the whole family can share. You can check in at a special "Air Transat Kids Club Members" counter. Thanks to these special counters located in</p>

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	<p>major Canadian airports where Air Transat flies, checking-in is quicker than before. At check-in, special tags will be placed on your baggage; as a result, your baggage gets priority treatment.</p>
<p>Air Transat Upgrades</p>	<p>Air Transat has added more legroom on all their aircraft, making the journey to and from your destination even more comfortable. They have also introduced a new Economy Class meal service on sun destination flights. Passengers flying south will now be welcomed onboard with a glass of champagne, while early morning passengers will be greeted with a mimosa.</p> <p>The meal service has also been improved. The airline will now offer passengers a more complete meal tray, including a choice of two hot meals, a complimentary glass of wine and dessert.</p>
<p>Best Leisure Airline</p>	<p>Air Transat was named World's Best Leisure Airline at the Skytrax annual World Airline Awards, held at the 2012 Farnborough International Airshow, near London in the UK.</p> <p>Distinctions were based on a survey measuring the satisfaction of more than 18 million customers. Conducted over a 10-month period, this survey included over 200 airlines that were rated on 38 different aspects of the passenger experience. The study analyzed customer satisfaction for the Airline Passenger Experience, from check-in to boarding, onboard seat comfort, cabin cleanliness, food and beverages, onboard entertainment, and service of staff.</p> <p>In the past five years, Air Transat has gained other recognitions as a result of its numerous environmental initiatives. In 2011, the Company ranked first worldwide in the Atmosfair Airline Index environmental performance indicator, in the long-haul category. Air Transat also obtained the Platinum LEED-EB (existing building) certification for its headquarters, located within the Montreal-Trudeau airport site.</p> <p>Air Transat was recognized as the Best Charter Airline for the fifth consecutive year at the Agents' Choice Awards, which represents the largest sampling of travel agents in Canada. The airline also received the Family Friendly Airline Award, which acknowledges carriers that provide additional services and extra comfort to children & parents.</p>
<p>Transat Compensation Plan</p>	<p>Transat has introduced a new compensation plan for clients affected by an advanced flight schedule change on all South, Florida and Europe flights, packages and cruises. This new policy applies to all bookings made with Transat Holidays.</p> <p>Applicable to schedule changes within 45 days of departure.</p> <p>Schedule change of 3 to 12 hours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transat will offer a \$50 voucher for future travel. <p>Schedule change of 12 to 24 hours</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transat will offer a \$75 voucher for future travel. <p>Schedule change of 24 hours or more and cancelled flights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clients can cancel their flight and are entitled to a full refund in the event of a schedule change of 24 hours or more. • Transat will offer a \$50 voucher for future travel to clients who cancel. • Transat will offer a \$100 voucher for future travel to clients who accept the date change. • Clients who choose a product at a lower fare will be refunded the price difference, whereas clients who select a product at a higher fare will be required to pay the balance. <p>Schedule change of 3 hours or less</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No compensation will be offered to clients experiencing a schedule change that is delayed or advanced by 3 hours or less.
<p>Transat Club Class</p>	<p>Enjoy exclusive privileges such as complimentary seat selection, wider, more comfortable leather seats, a choice of gourmet meals and fine wines, priority check-in, baggage service and boarding.</p> <p>Club Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicated Club attendants • Attentive, personalized service • Exclusive, spacious Club cabin <p>Drinks & Snacks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome cocktails • Complimentary non-alcoholic drinks, snacks and bar service <p>Club Privileges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased baggage allowance • 40 kg checked/15 kg carry-on • Exclusive, rapid check-in counter in most airports • Priority boarding • Practical travel items (on Europe flights) • Free headsets • Canadian newspapers <p>Comfort & Refinement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wider, more comfortable leather seats • More leg room • Complimentary Seat Selection • Choice of gourmet meals • Choice of wine and more
<p>Option Plus</p>	<p>This Economy class option includes many priority privileges and services including priority check-in, priority baggage handling, an extra 10kg baggage allowance and even champagne. Here's what you get:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advance seat selection on roundtrip flights • Priority check-in at a dedicated counter

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority baggage handling • Priority boarding • Complete Air Transat travel kit on flights to European destinations • Snacks from the On Board Bistro selection • Alcoholic beverages during drinks service 200ml bottle of champagne (Sun and Europe) • Supplementary baggage allowance up to 10 kg per flight segment • Wine or beer with the meal • Headsets <p>The cost is \$79-\$119 for southbound destinations and \$99-\$209 for European destinations as at December 2013</p>
<p>Transat and Sustainable Tourism</p>	<p>Transat recognizes the prime importance of the environment, host communities, cultural diversity, and their relationships with their employees, customers and partners. Transat is firmly committed to the responsible development of the tourism industry, and has adopted the following definition of sustainable tourism:</p> <p><i>“Sustainable tourism entails respect for nature, as well as for host communities and their values; it combines positive socio-economic benefits for local populations with an enriching experience for travellers.”</i></p> <p>The issue of the environment, as far as Transat’s own facilities are concerned, is a clear and basic target. Their environment committees have implemented concrete initiatives with regard to recycling, conservation of resources, the disposal of obsolete electronic equipment, and raising employee awareness.</p> <p>Air Transat has begun developing an environmental management system that could lead to an ISO 14001 certification in the future. To find out more, consult the Transat and the Environment sections at their website: http://www.airtransat.ca/en/Info/the-environment-its-everyones-business.aspx?ExitID=69&ContentType=voyageur</p> <p>Eco-responsible certified hotels</p> <p>Transat urges its hotelier partners to excel in social and environmental responsibility, and formally recognizes the efforts of accommodations that commit to certification in this area. Certified establishments must maintain performance levels to continue using such labels. The indicators used vary depending on the certification scheme, but many certification organizations have begun aligning their benchmarks with the Global Sustainable Tourism Criteria.</p> <p>To help you make an informed choice when you take your next vacation, Transat list six certifications for hotels and beaches. You can also find certified hotels by searching by destination.</p> <p>Certifications for hotels</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Biosphere Responsible Tourism

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Green Globe 3. Green Key 4. ISO 14001 5. Travelife <p>Certification for beaches</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Blue Flag
Gift Certificates	<p>Here's your chance to make a loved one's dream come true. With Transat gift certificates you can offer the gift of travel from packages to car rental. Transat gift certificates are valid on all Air Transat, Nolitours, or Transat Holidays products in their brochures. They can be redeemed at a travel agent's office at the time of reservation. To order your gift certificates call 1-800-322-6649.</p>
2013 Hurricane Policy	<p>Nolitours and Transat Holidays provide you with true peace of mind. Vacationers can travel secure in the knowledge that you will be protected should a hurricane affect your destination city in Florida, Mexico, the Caribbean or Central America. This Nolitours/Transat Holidays policy covers reservations for departures between June 1 and November 30, 2013. If the conditions stipulated in the policy are met, you may choose one of these four options:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Travel at a later date 2. Travel to another destination city 3. Travel to the booked destination city 4. Cancel with a full refund in credit vouchers
Nolizone	<p>Nolitours' lively noliZONE was specifically created for travellers who would like to step outside their resort, meet new people and really get to know their destination. With tons of fun activities throughout the day and night, your biggest dilemma will be deciding what to do next. Introduced in 2011, the It Zone in Puerto Plata was so successful that this concept has been launched in other destinations.</p> <p>Their noliZONE representative will always keep you informed on upcoming activities and events, and you can also visit www.nolizone.nolitours.com to get the latest news and updates on what is going on in the noliZONE.</p>
Social Media	<p>Stay in touch with Transat and Nolitours at their two Facebook sites:</p> <p>http://www.facebook.com/airtransat http://www.facebook.com/nolitours</p>
Groups	<p>Group rates are available – as few as 10 adults make up a group. Talk to your travel agent to check the current details of Transat's group deals.</p>
Transat Discoveries	<p>This is Transat's program to the exotic destination of your dreams! It features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - international flights on scheduled airlines like Cathay Pacific, Air France, KLM, South African Airways, Air Canada and LAN - 4 star accommodation (some 3 and 5 star) and transfers

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small-group tour with English-speaking guide - Unique experiences with most meals and excursions included <p>For more information contact your travel agent and view the tour itineraries in the brochure or at www.transatdiscoveries.com</p> <p>Here are some of their destinations they offer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Beach stays in Thailand and Vietnam - Health retreats in Tunisia and Morocco - Diving in the Red Sea and Galapagos Islands - Overland safaris in Kenya and Tanzania - More options in over 40 countries.
<p>Transat Excursions in Huatulco</p>	<p>Waterfalls Tour Nature at its best. Hike up a mountain and alongside a river as you admire Huatulco's beautiful landscapes. Go for a swim in a crystal-clear river, before visiting some of the local villages. Here, you'll have the opportunity to sample some excellent homemade food. Drive up to the mountain and take a hike on the beautiful river to reach the ponds located approx. 1.45 hrs. from Huatulco, take a hike by the river side and get to swim in a clear and fresh water river, with its natural swimming pools; on the way see some of the little villages and get to interact with the locals, you will also have excellent homemade food.</p> <p>Copalita Visit Copalita, an eco-archaeological site that dates to 500 B.C. The site is located inside the Botazoo Ecological Park and is considered one of the most important archeological finds in Mexico. Offering stunning views of the ocean, it includes several burial sites, pyramids and one ball court. Guides will give you a detailed information about Oaxaca and México's Culture to continue to Copalita eco-archaeological site that dates from 500 B.C. and the Archaeologist still are unsure about the culture that developed it, In part they think the mysterious Zapotecs - considered the biggest and most important ethnic group of Oaxaca – may be responsible, but also the Mazatecos who used to live by the coast. This Archaeological site is located inside the Botazoo Ecological Park around 18kms south of Huatulco and considered one of the most important recent discoveries in México. Copalita overlooks the ocean and consists of several burial sites, pyramids and one ball court.</p>
<p>Current Deals Nov 2013</p>	<p>Both Las Brisas and Secrets resorts are part of Transat's Experience Collection: San Jose del Pacifico Escapade</p> <p>First Day: Depart Huatulco in the morning. Stop in Pochutla, where you'll get to see the town square and shop at a traditional tianguis market filled with interesting finds. Continue to the Finca Pacifico coffee plantation, whose cultivation and brewing methods have remained unchanged since the 18th century. Enjoy a walking tour of the plantation</p>

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and learn about the coffee-making process before a hearty, home-cooked lunch with a local family. Continue to San Jose del Pacifico and take part in a cooking workshop at a local restaurant and sample your creation. Overnight in Cabañas Hotel La Puesta. Surrounded by the lush greenery of the Sierra Madre, this peaceful hotel accommodates guests in rustic log cabins for a cozy mountain getaway.

Second Day: Depart for an early-morning hike up the mountain and observe the variety of beautiful species during your bird watching tour. Have breakfast on the way down, followed by a visit to Candelaria's church and town square. Return to your resort in Huatulco.

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